

8225  
A  
C O M P E N D  
OF  
MILITARY DISCIPLINE,

FOR THE  
T R O O P S,  
OF  
NEW HAMPSHIRE.

CHIEFLY

*Army*  
*K*  
Selected from the Regulations of Baron<sup>s</sup> Steuben and  
Major General Sullivan.

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WITH AN APPENDIX,  
Containing the Act for regulating the Militia of this  
State.

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The whole adapted to the present Militia Establishment  
throughout the United States.

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CONCORD:

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A  
C O M P E N D  
O F  
MILITARY DISCIPLINE.

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*Formation of a Company.*

A COMPANY is to be formed in two ranks at one pace distance, with the tallest men in the rear, and both ranks sized, with the shortest men of each in the centre. A company thus drawn up, is to be divided into two sections, which may make platoons in a regiment, where it will answer to perform the evolutions, and half companies; but if the company is to exercise by itself, the commanding officer will subdivide it into as many sections as he may think proper. When a company takes its place in a battalion, the Captain is to take post on the right, covered by a serjeant; the Lieutenant in the centre also, covered by a serjeant; the Ensigns four paces behind the centre of the company; the first serjeant two paces behind the centre of the first platoon; the second serjeant two paces behind the centre of the second platoon; the corporals are to be divided on the flanks of the company.

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*The Formation of a Regiment.*

THE companies are to be posted, the eldest on the right, the second on the left, and so successively, bringing the youngest in the centre.

The



THE standard of a regiment is to be in the centre ; the Colonel sixteen paces before the colours ; the Lieut. Colonel, eight paces behind the Colonel ; the Major, fifteen paces behind the centre of the battalion, having the Adjutant at their side ; the drum and five Majors two paces behind the centre of the battalion, and the drums and fives equally divided on the wings.

If a regiment is formed into two battalions, they are to be drawn up with an interval of twenty paces between them, and one standard posted in the centre of each battalion, the Colonel fifteen paces before the centre of the first battalion ; the Lieut. Colonel, fifteen paces before the centre of the second battalion ; the eldest Major, fifteen paces behind the centre of the first battalion ; the second Major, fifteen paces behind the centre of the second battalion ; the Adjutant is to attend the first Major ; the drum and five Majors, two paces behind the centre of the first battalion ; their places behind the second battalion, being supplied by a drum and five.

WHEN a company of light-infantry is with the regiment, it must be formed twenty paces on the right upon the parade, but must not interfere with the exercise of the battalion, but exercise by itself ; and when the light infantry are embodied, every four companies will form a battalion, and exercise in the same manner as the battalion in the line.

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*Of instructing the Troops.*

THE officers of every rank ought to pay particular attention to teaching the soldiers under their command, either in person, or by appointing such



such officers, whether commissioned or non commissioned, as will be most likely to answer the purpose.

THE soldiers must first be taken singly, or in small squads, and taught to put on their accoutrements, and carry themselves properly.

*The Position of a Soldier without Arms.*

HE is to stand straight and firm upon his legs, with the head turned to the right, so far as to bring the left eye over the waistcoat buttons; the heels two inches apart; the toes turned out; the belly drawn in a little, but without constraint; the breast a little projected; the shoulders square to the front, and kept back; and the hands hanging down the sides, with the palms close to the thighs.

*Attention !*

AT this word the soldier must be silent, and stand firm and steady, moving neither hand or foot, (except as ordered) but attend carefully to the words of command. This attention of the soldier must be observed in the strictest manner, till he receives the word,

*Rest !*

AT which he may refresh himself, by moving his hands or feet; but must not then sit down or quit his place, unless permitted so to do.

*Attention ! To the left, Dress !*

AT this word the soldier turns his head briskly to the left, so as to bring his right eye in the direction of his waistcoat buttons.

*To the right, Dress !*

THE soldier then dresses again to the right, as before. He must then be taught the Facings.

*To the right, Face ! Two motions.*

*First.* Turn briskly on both heels to the right; lifting up the toes a little, and describing the quarter

quarter of a circle. *Second.* Bring the right foot to its proper position, without stamping.

*To the left, Face ! Two motions.*

*First.* Turn to the left, as before to the right. *Second.* Bring up the right foot to its proper position.

*To the right about, Face ! Three motions.*

*First.* Step back with the right foot, bringing the buckle opposite the left heel, at the same time seizing the cartridge box with the right hand. *Second.* Turn briskly on both heels and describe half a circle. *Third.* Bring back the right foot, at the same time quitting the cartridge box. As there never can be a necessity of facing to the left about, nothing need be said upon the method of performing it.

When the soldier is sufficiently expert in the foregoing points, he must be taught the different steps.

*The common Step,*

Is two feet; and about seventy five in a minute.

*To the front, March.*

The soldier steps off with his left foot, and marches a free, easy and natural step, without altering the position of his body or head, taking care to preserve a proper balance, and not cross his legs, but to march without constraint in every sort of ground: The officer must march sometimes in his front, and sometimes at his side, in order to join example to precept.

*Halt !*

At this word, the soldier stops short on the foot, then advanced, immediately bringing up the other without stamping.

*The*

*The quick Step.*

Is also two feet, but about one hundred and twenty in a minute, and is performed on the same principle as the other.

As the marching of troops by musick, cannot be regular or exact in long columns; owing to the length of time requisite for the sound to pass from front to rear; they must be taught to march as well without, as with musick: And the following method is recommended.

Let one hundred and fifty feet of ground be marked off in seventy five parts, and let the soldier step from one mark to the other, a free easy step, and if he finds by a watch or clock, that the seventy-five steps are performed in less than a minute, he must step slower, and if they are not performed in a minute, he must step faster, and by trying a few times, he will get the time and distance of the step, without difficulty. The quick step is learnt in the same manner; only marking off two hundred and forty feet, into one hundred and twenty parts, and passing from one extreme to the other, in a minute. By this method, every officer and soldier, may learn the common and quick step, without an instructor.

The troops having been exercised singly, or in small parties, till they have a proper carriage, and are well grounded in the different steps; the officer will then take three men, and place them in one rank, exercise them in the different steps, and teach them

*The March by Files.*

Which being of great importance, must be carefully attended to; observing that the soldier carries his body more forward than in the front march, and that he does not increase the distance  
from



from his file-leader. The oblique step must then be practised, both in the quick and common time.

In marching obliquely to the right, the soldier steps obliquely with the right foot, bringing up the left, and placing the heel directly before the toes of the right foot; and the contrary, when marching to the left; at the same time observing to keep the shoulders square to the front, especially that the shoulder opposed to the side they march to, does not project, and that the files keep close.

The troops being thus far instructed, must be separately taught

*The Position of a Soldier under Arms.*

In this position, the soldier is to stand straight and firm on his legs, with the heels two inches apart, the toes a little turned out, the belly drawn in a little without constraint, the breast a little projected, the shoulders square to the front, and kept back, the right hand hanging down the side, with the palm close to the thigh, the left elbow not turned out from the body, the firelock carried on the left shoulder, at such height, that the guard will be just under the left breast, the forefinger and thumb before the swell of the butt, the three last fingers under the butt, the flat of the butt against the hip bone, and pressed so that the firelock may be felt against the left side, and stand before the hollow of the shoulder, neither leaning towards the head nor from it, the barrel almost perpendicular. When exercising, he is to be very exact in counting a second of time between each motion.

THE

## THE MANUAL EXERCISE.

I. *Poise Firelock ! Two Motions.*

*First.* WITH your left hand turn the firelock briskly, bringing the lock to the front, at the same instant seize it with the right hand, just below the lock, keeping the piece perpendicular.

*Second.* With a quick motion bring up the firelock from the shoulder directly before the face, and seize it with the left hand just above the lock, so that the little finger may rest upon the feather-spring, and the thumb lie on the stock; the left hand must be of an equal height with the eyes.

II. *Cock Firelock ! Two Motions.*

*First.* Turn the barrel opposite to your face, and place your thumb upon the cock, raising the elbow square at this motion. *Second.* Cock the firelock by drawing down your elbow, immediately placing your thumb upon the breech-pin, and the fingers under the guard.

III. *Take Aim !*

Step back about six inches with the right foot, bringing the left toe to the front; at the same time drop the muzzle, and bring up the butt end of the firelock against your right shoulder; place the left hand forward on the swell of the stock, and the fore-finger of the right hand before the trigger, sinking the muzzle a little below a level, and with the right eye looking along the barrel.

IV. *Fire ! One Motion.*

Pull the trigger briskly, and immediately after, bringing up the right foot, come to the priming position, placing the heels even, with the right toe pointing to the right, the lock opposite to the right breast, the muzzle directly to the front, and

as high as the hat; the left hand just forward of the feather-spring, holding the piece firm and steady; and at the same time seize the cock with the forefinger and thumb of the right hand, the back of the hand turned up.

*v. Half cock Firelock! One Motion.*

Half bend the cock briskly, bringing down the elbow to the butt of the firelock.

*vi. Handle Cartridge! One Motion.*

Bring your right hand short round to your pouch, flapping it hard, seize the cartridge, and bring it with a quick motion to your mouth, bite the top off down to the powder, covering it instantly with your thumb, and bring the hand as low as the chin, with the elbow down.

*vii. Prime! One Motion.*

Shake the powder into the pan, and covering the cartridge again, place the three last fingers behind the hammer, with the elbow up.

*viii. Shut Pan! Two Motions.*

*First.* Shut your pan briskly, bringing down the elbow to the butt of the firelock, holding the cartridge fast in your hand. *Second.* Turn the piece nimbly round before you to the loading position, with the lock to the front, and the muzzle at the height of the chin, bringing the right hand up under the muzzle; both feet being kept fast in this motion.

*ix. Charge with Cartridge! Two Motions.*

*First.* Turn up your hand and put the cartridge into the muzzle, shaking the powder into the barrel. *Second.* Turning the stock a little towards you, place your right hand, closed with a quick and strong motion, upon the butt of the rammer, the thumb upward and the elbow down.

*x. Draw*



**x. Draw Rammer ! Two Motions.**

*First.* Draw your rammer with a quick motion half out, seizing it instantly at the muzzle back-handed. *Second.* Draw it quite out, turn it, and enter it into the muzzle.

**xi. Ram down Cartridge ! One Motion.**

Ram the cartridge well down the barrel, and instantly recovering and seizing the rammer back-handed by the middle, draw it quite out, turn it, and enter it as far as the lower pipe, placing at the same time the edge of the hand on the butt end of the rammer with the fingers extended.

**xii. Return Rammer ! One Motion.**

Thrust the rammer home, and instantly bring up the piece with the left hand to the shoulder, seizing it at the same time, with the right hand under the cock, keeping the left hand at the swell, and turning the body square to the front.

**xiii. Shoulder Firlock ! Two Motions.**

*First.* Bring down the left hand, placing it strong on the butt. *Second.* With a quick motion bring the right hand down by your side.

**xiv. Order Firelock ! Two Motions.**

*First.* Sink the firelock with the left hand as low as possible without constraint, and at the same time bring up the right hand, seize the firelock at the left shoulder. *Second.* Quit the firelock with the left hand, and with the right bring it down to the right side, the butt on the ground even with the toes of the right foot, the thumb of the right hand lying along the barrel, and the muzzle being kept at a little distance from the body.

**xv. Ground Firelock ! Two Motions.**

*First.* With the right hand turn the firelock, bringing the lock to the rear, and instantly stepping

ping forward with the left foot a large pace, lay the piece on the ground, the barrel on a direct line from front to rear, placing the left hand on the knee, to support the body, the head held up, the right hand and left heel in a line, and the right knee brought almost to the ground. *Second.* Quitting the firelock, raise yourself up, and bring back the left foot to its former position.

*xvi. Take up Firelock! Two Motions.*

*First.* Step forward with the left foot, sink the body, and come to the position described in the first motion of grounding. *Second.* Raise up yourself and firelock, stepping back again with the left foot, and as soon as the piece is perpendicular, turn the barrel behind, thus coming to the order.

*xvii. Shoulder Firelock. Two Motions.*

*First.* Bring the firelock to the left shoulder, throwing it up a little, and catching it below the tail pipe, and instantly seize it with the left hand at the butt. *Second.* With a quick motion bring the right hand down by your side.

*xviii. Secure Firelock. Three Motions.*

*First.* Bring up the right hand briskly, and place it under the cock. *Second.* Quit the butt with the left hand, and seize the firelock at the swell, bringing the arm close down upon the lock, the right hand being kept fast in this motion, and the piece upright. *Third.* Quitting the piece with your right hand, bring it down by your side, at the same time with your left hand throw the muzzle directly forward, bringing it within about one foot of the ground, and the butt close up behind the left shoulder, holding the left hand in a line with the waist-belt, and with that arm covering the lock.

**xx. Shoulder Firelock ! Three Motions.**

First. Bring the firelock up to the shoulder, seizing it with the right hand under the cock. Second. Bring the left hand down strong upon the butt. Third. Bring the right hand down by your side.

**xx. Fix Bayonet ! Three Motions.**

First and second motions, the same as the two first motions of the secure. Third. Quitting the piece with your right hand, sink it with your left, down the left side, as far as may be without constraint, at the same time seize the bayonet with the right hand, draw and fix it, immediately slipping the hand down to the stock, and pressing in the piece to the hollow of the shoulder.

**xxi. Shoulder Firelock ! Three Motions.**

First. Quitting the piece with the right hand, with the left bring it up to the shoulder, and seize it again with the right hand under the cock, as in the second motion of the secure. Second. Bring the left hand down strong upon the butt. Third. Bring the right hand down by your side.

**xxii. Present Arms ! Three Motions.**

First and second motions, the same as in coming to the poise. Third. Step briskly back with your right foot, placing it at a hand's breadth distant from your left heel, at the same time bring down the firelock as quick as possible to the rest, sinking it as far down before your left knee as your right hand will permit without constraint, holding the right hand under the guard, with the fingers extended, and drawing in the piece with the left hand till the barrel is perpendicular; during this motion you quit the piece.



piece with the left hand, and instantly seize it again just below the tail pipe.

xxiii. *Shoulder Firelock ! Two Motions.*

*First.* Lift up your right foot and place it by your left, at the same time bring the firelock to your left shoulder, and seize the butt end with the left hand, coming to the first motion of the secure. *Second.* Bring your right hand down by your side.

xxiv. *Charge Bayonet ! Two Motions.*

*First.* The same as the first motion of the secure. *Second.* Bring the butt of the firelock under the right arm, letting the piece fall down strong on the palm of the left hand, which receives it at the swell, the muzzle pointing directly to the front, the butt pressed with the arm against the side ; the front rank holding their pieces horizontally, and the rear rank the muzzles of theirs so high as to clear the heads of the front rank, both ranks keeping their feet fast.

xxv. *Shoulder Firelock ! Two Motions*

*First.* Bring up the piece smartly to a shoulder, seizing the butt with the left hand. *Second.* Bring the right hand down by your side.

xxvi. *Advance Arms ! Four motions.*

*First and Second.* The same as the two first motions of the poise. *Third.* Bring the firelock down to the right side, with the right hand, as low as it will admit without constraint, slipping up the left hand at the same time to the swell ; and instantly shifting the right hand to its former position, take the guard between the thumb and forefinger, and bring the three last fingers under the cock, with the barrel to the rear. *Fourth.* Quit the firelock with the left hand, bringing it down by your side.

**xxvii. Shoulder Firelock! Four Motions.**

First. Bring up the left hand, and seize the firelock at the swell. Second. Come smartly up to a poise. Third and fourth. Shoulder.

*Explanation of priming and loading, as performed in the firings; beginning from a shoulder.*

**Prime and Load! Fifteen Motions.**

First. Come to the recover, throwing up your firelock with a smart spring on the left hand, directly before the left breast, and turning the barrel inwards; at that moment catch it with the right hand below the lock, and instantly bringing up the left hand with a rapid motion, seize the piece close above the lock, the little finger touching the feather spring; the left hand to be at an equal height with the eyes, the butt of the firelock close to the left breast, but not pressed, and the barrel perpendicular. Second. Bring the firelock down with a brisk motion to the priming position, as directed in the fourth word of command, instantly placing the thumb of the right hand against the face of the steel, the finger clenched, and the elbow a little turned out, that the wrist may be clear of the cock. Third. Open the pan by throwing back the steel with a strong motion of the right arm, keeping the firelock steady in the left hand. Fourth. Handle cartridge. Fifth. Prime. Sixth. Shut pan. Seventh. Cast about. Eighth and Ninth. Load. Tenth and Eleventh. Draw rammer. Twelfth. Ram down cartridge. Thirteenth. Return rammer. Fourteenth and Fifteenth. Shoulder.

N. B. The motion of recover, coming down to the priming position, and opening the pan, to be

be done in the usual time; the motions of handling cartridge to shutting the pan, to be done as quick as possible; when the pans are shut, make a small pause, and cast about together; then the loading and shouldering motions are to be done as quick as possible: In all other motions in the manual exercise, particular attention must be paid to the time between the motions, for if more or less than one second is allowed, it will be impossible for the troops to perform together.

*Position of each Rank in the Firings.*

*Front Rank, make ready! One Motion.*

Spring the firelock briskly to a recover; as soon as the left hand seizes the firelock above the lock, the right elbow is to be nimbly raised a little, placing the thumb of that hand upon the cock, the fingers open by the plate of the lock, and as quick as possible cock the piece, by dropping the elbow, and forcing down the cock with the thumb, immediately seizing the firelock with the right hand close under the lock; the piece to be held in this manner perpendicular, opposite the left side of the face, the body kept straight and as full to the front as possible, and the head held up, looking well to the right.

*Take Aim! Fire! As before explained.*

When the rear rank fires by itself, the word is given—rear rank make ready! They recover and cock as the front rank, but when they take aim, they must step six inches to the right, with the right foot, while the front rank step six inches back.

When a number of men march in a single rank, they must be taught to dress sometimes to the right, sometimes to the left, and sometimes

to



to the centre; to do which the soldier must observe to feel the man on that side he dresses to, without crowding him, and to advance or retire till he can just discover the breast of the second man from him, taking care not to stoop, but to keep his head and body upright.

When they can dress pretty well, they must be taught to wheel as follows :

*To the Right, Wheel !*

At this word of command, the men turn their heads briskly to the left hand man; he only looks to the right.

*March !*

The whole step off, observing to feel the man on the hand they wheel to, without crowding; the right hand man, serving as a pivot for the rest to turn on, gains no ground, but turns on his heel; the officer will march on the flank, and when the wheeling is finished, command

*Halt !*

On which the whole stop short on the foot then forward, bringing up the right foot, and dressing to the right.

*To the Left, Wheel !*

The whole continues to look to the right, except the right hand man, who looks to the left.

The wheelings must first be taught in the common steps, and then practiced in the quick steps.

The Exercise of a Company.

*Of opening the Ranks.*

*Rear Rank, take distance ! March !*

The rear rank steps back four paces, and dresses by the right; the officers at the same  
 C . . . . . time

time advancing eight paces in front, and dressing in a line; the serjeants, who covered the officers, take their places in the front rank; the non commissioned officers, who were in the rear, remain there, stepping back four paces behind the rear rank.

*Rear Rank, close to the Front!*

The officers face to the company.

*March!*

The rear rank closes to within a common pace, or two feet; and the officers return to their former posts.

*Of the Firings.*

The Captain will divide his company, and teach them the firings by divisions or platoons.

The officers must give the words of command with a loud and distinct voice; observe that the soldiers step off, and place their feet, as directed in the manual exercise; and that they level their pieces at a proper height; for which purpose they must be accustomed always to take sight at some object.

The officer will often command, *as you were!* to accustom the soldier not to fire till he receives the word of command.

On days of exercise, (unless notice is given that the troops are to exercise with powder) the men will appear with a piece of wood instead of a flint; and each soldier should have six pieces of wood in the form of cartridges.

*Of the March.*

In marching to the front, the men must be accustomed to dress to the centre, which they will have to do when exercising in battalion; and for this purpose, a serjeant must be placed  
six

fix paces in the centre, who will take some object in front to serve as a direction for him to march straight forward; and the men must look inwards, and regulate their march by him.

The Captain must exercise his company in different sorts of ground; and when by the badness of the ground, or any other accident, the soldier loses his step, he must immediately take it again from the serjeant in the centre.

*The Oblique March,*

Must be practiced both in the quick and common steps, agreeably to the instructions already given.

*The March by Files,*

Is as important as difficult. In performing it, the officers must be attentive that the soldiers bend their bodies a little forward, and do not open their files.

The leading file will be conducted by the officer; who will post himself for that purpose on its left, when they march by the right, and the contrary, when they march by the left.

*The Counter March.*

*Note.* This march must never be executed by larger portions of a battalion than platoons,

*Caution.*

Take care to counter march from the right by platoons.

*To the Right, Face! March.*

The whole facing to the right, each platoon wheels by files to the right about; and when the right hand file gets on the ground where the left stood, the officer orders,

*Halt! To the Left, Face!*

And the company will be formed with their front changed.

*Of*



*Of Wheeling.*

The Captain will exercise his company in wheeling entire, and by sections or platoons, both in the common and quick step, taking care that the men in the rear rank incline a little to the right or left, according to the hand they wheel to, so as always to cover exactly their file leaders.

*Of breaking off, and forming by the Oblique Step out of a March.*

The Captain, having divided his company into sections, will give the word,

*Sections break Off!*

Upon which the section on the right inclines by the oblique step to the left, and those on the left incline to the right till they cover each other, when they march forward.

*Form Company!*

The first section inclines to the right, shortening its step, and the second to the left, lengthening its step, till they are uncovered, when all march forward and form in a line.

*Exercise of a Battalion.*

When a battalion parades for exercise, it is to be formed, and the officers posted, agreeably to the instructions already given in the second and third chapters.

The battalion will wheel by divisions or platoons, by word from the commanding or exercising officer.

By		Platoons		to the		Right		Wheel.
		Divisions				Left		

*March!*

When the battalion wheels, the platoons are conducted by the officers commanding them; the

the supernumeraries remaining in the rear of the respective platoons. The wheeling finished, each officer commanding a platoon or division, commands

*Halt! Dress to the Right!*

And posts himself before the centre, the serjeant who covered him takes his place on the right.

*Forward March!*

The whole step off, and follow the leading division or platoon ; the officer who conducts the column receives his directions from the commanding officer. When the battalion wheels to the right, the left flank of the platoons must dress in a line with each other, and the contrary when they wheel to the left.

*Battalion Halt!*

When the wheeling is finished and the battalion formed in a line, the officers commanding platoons or divisions, take post in the proper intervals.

*Of the Points of View.*

The use of these is a most essential part in the manœuvres which without them cannot be executed with facility or precision. They are usually some distant objects, the most conspicuous that can be found,\* chosen by the commanding officer, to determine the direction of his line, which otherwise would be mere hazard.

### Of the Formation of Columns.

Open columns are formed generally by wheeling to the right or left by platoons or divisions, when the word of command is

Platoons, to the { Right } Wheel.  
                              { Left }

It may also, in case of necessity, be formed by marching

marching the platoons by files in the following manner :

*Caution !*

Take care to form open column by the right.

*To the Right—Face !*

The right platoon stands fast, the rest face to the right, and break off to the rear, and march when the word is given till they cover the right hand platoon.

This column may be formed by the left centre, or any other platoon in the same manner.

In all cases, the officers commanding platoons must, upon the caution being given, take the proper post for leading their platoons, both in forming and displaying columns ; and return to their posts when their platoons are dressed.

The close column is formed by the right, the right in front, in the following manner :

*Caution !*

Take care to form columns by platoons, by the right ; the right in front.

*To the Right—Face !*

The whole face to the right, except the right platoon ; at the same time the leading file of each platoon breaks off, in order to march in the rear of its preceding platoon.

*March !*

The whole step off with the quick step, each platoon marching close in the rear of that preceding it, to its place in the column.

The officers commanding platoons, when they perceive their leading file dressed with that of the platoon already formed, command,

*Halt ! Front ! Dress !*

And the platoon halts, and dresses by the right.

The



The close column may be formed by the left with the left in front, in the same manner. The closed column may be formed on the fifth or any other of the centre platoons in the following manner.

*Caution!*

Take care to form column on the fifth platoon, the right in front.

*To the Right and Left, Face!*

The fifth platoon stands fast; the others face to the centre, and break off, and on receiving the word

*March!*

are conducted by their officers to their posts in the column; the four platoons on the right, forming in the front, and the three platoons on the left, forming in the rear of the fifth platoon.

When this column is formed on the centre platoon with the left in front, the platoons on the right form in the rear, and those on the left form in front.

When a column is in march, the commanding officer will order them to *Support Arms*, that they may march more at their ease; and when he thinks proper to bring them to a shoulder, commands *Carry Arms!*

*Displaying Columns.*

If the commanding officer finds himself under a necessity of displaying an open column, he will command,

*Take care to display column to the Left!* (if it marches by the right, and to the right if it marches by the left) at the word *march* being given, the leading platoon stands fast, and the others by an oblique step march to their places in the line, dressing by the leading platoon.

IF

If the commanding officer chooses to close the open column, he will command,

*Close column, March !*

On which the platoons march, by the quick step, and close to within two paces of each other, when the commanding officers of platoons successively command *Halt ! Dress to the Right !*

When a close column is formed by the right, with the right in front, and is to display to the left, their officer commands,

*Take care to display column to the Left !*

The officers commanding platoons go to the left, in order to conduct them.

*To the Left, Face !*

The whole face to the left, except the front platoon.

*March !*

The platoons faced, step off, and march obliquely to their places in the line; when the second platoon gains its proper distance, its officer commands,

*Halt ! Front ! To the Right, Dress !*

Dresses his platoon with that already formed, and takes his post on the right: the other platoons form in the same manner.

When a column is formed by the left, the left in front; it is displayed to the right on the same principles as that formed on the right is displayed to the left.

When a column formed on the centre or fifth platoon, with the right in front, is to be displayed, the officer commands,

*Take care to display column from the Centre.*

At this caution, the officer of the platoon in front, posts a serjeant on each flank of it, who

are

are to remain there till the platoon on which the platoon displays, has taken its post in the line, when they retire along the rear of the battalions to their platoons.

*To the Right and Left, Face !*

The fifth platoon stands fast, the front platoons face to the right, the rear platoons face to the left.

*March !*

The platoons of the right, march to the right, the first platoon taking care to march directly to the point of view ; so soon as the fourth platoon has unmasked the fifth, its officer commands,

*Halt ! Front ! March !*

And it marches up to its post in the line ; the third and second platoons, as soon as they have respectively gained their distances, proceed in the same manner ; and then the first halts and dresses with them ; the fifth platoon in the meantime marches to its post between the two serjeants, and the platoons of the left form by marching obliquely to their posts in the line, as before explained. When a column is formed by the right, and the nature of the ground will not permit its being displayed to the left, it may be displayed to the right in the following manner :

*Caution !*

Take care to display columns to the right ! The two serjeants are to be posted as before, on the flanks of the front platoon.

The rear platoon stands fast, the rest face to the right, and march, the first platoon keeping the line ; so soon as the rear platoon is unmasked, it marches forward to its post between the two serjeants of the first platoon, left there for

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that purpose, the seventh platoon having gained its distance, halts, fronts, and marches up to its ground; the other platoons proceed in the same manner, as explained in the display from the centre. If the column is formed by the left, the left in front, it may be displayed to the left on the same principles.

In every case of displaying columns, the battalion must be formed on a line with the front column.

*Of Changing the Front of a Line.*

This may be done where the ground will admit, by a simple wheeling, if the number of troops are not considerable; but if the line consists of more than one regiment, it will be best to form close columns, and marching it into the direction required, display and form the line.

If it be only necessary to change the front of the line without moving the centre from its former ground, it will be best to form the whole in one close column, wheel it and display in the direction required. This may be done with great ease, if the line does not consist of more than one brigade; but if the line consists of more, it must be done by forming several columns, marching them to the direction required and there displaying.

*Of the March of Columns.*

The column should always begin to march and halt at the same time, and only by order of the commanding officer.

When a close column is obliged to change the direction of its march, the front platoon must not wheel round on its flank, but advance in a direction more or less circular, according to the depth

depth of the column, that the other platoons may follow.

An open column changes the direction of its march, by wheeling the front platoon, the others following; in doing which, the officers commanding platoons must be particularly careful that their platoons wheel on the same ground with the front platoon; for which purpose a serjeant should be left to mark the pivot on which they are to wheel.

When circumstances will admit, every corps marching in one column, should march with the right in front; and in case of obstacles obliging it to diminish its front. The left hand sections or files should break off and follow the right; and when the defile is passed by inclining obliquely to the left, form as before.

If the obstacle presents itself before any number of files, marching with the battalion in the line, the files obstructed face outward from their centre, and follow by files, the platoons on their right and left; if the platoons on the wing are obstructed, they will face inward and follow in the same manner.

*Of Marching in Line.*

*Caution! - Battalion, Forward!*

At this caution the Ensign with the colours advances six paces; the serjeant who covered him takes his place. The Colonel will be posted in front of the colours; the commandant of the battalion will take post two paces in front of the colours, and will give the Ensign an object to serve as a direction for him to march straight forward.

*March!*

*March!*

The Ensign who carries the colours will be careful to march straight to the object given him by the Colonel to do which he must fix on some intermediate object.

If many battalions are in the line, the Ensigns must dress by the Ensigns in the centre; if only two, they will dress by each other. They must be very careful not to advance beyond the battalion they are to dress by, it being much easier to advance than to fall back.

Should a battalion by any cause be hindered from advancing in the line with the rest, the Ensign of that battalion must drop his colours, as a signal to the other battalions (who might otherwise stop to dress by them) not to conform to these movements; the colours to be raised again when the battalion has advanced to its post in the line.

The soldier must not advance out of the rank, the shoulder opposite the side he dresses to, he must not crowd his right or left hand man, but give way to the pressure of the centre, and resist the wings; he must have his eye continually fixed on the colours, turning his head more or less in proportion to his distance from them.

If a battalion marching in a line, meets with a bridge, or defile, over or through which not more than the front of a division can pass, and the obstacle is near the centre, the officer orders *Halt!* and then to the two platoons before whom it presents itself, *March!* on which they pass the defile in one division. As soon as those two platoons have marched, the commanding officer orders,

*To*



*To the Right and Left, Face!*

The platoons on the right, face to the left, and those on the left, face to the right and march, till they join them, front the defile and pass, the rest following in the same manner. As soon as the front division has passed, it will halt; and the other divisions, as fast as they arise in the rear, face outward and march by files to their proper places in battalion.

If the obstacle presents itself before one of the wings, or any division distant from the centre; the close column must be formed upon that division, and the defile will not permit more than four files to pass, the four files before whom it presents itself, enter without any word of command, the rest face inward and follow them; the whole marching through by files.

As soon as the files which first entered have passed, they halt; the others as fast as they pass, marching to their places in battalion.

The passage of defiles in retreat, is the same as in the march to the front; but if done in the presence of an enemy, the platoons on the wings must first pass the defile.

*Of the disposition of Field Pieces attached to Brigades or Regiments.*

When troops march by the right, the field pieces must march between the main body and the advance guard; but if there be several brigades, regiments, or corps, with field pieces, the pieces must march at the head of their respective corps. If they march by the left, the field pieces follow in the rear. In manœuvring, they must also follow in the rear of the respective corps to which they are attached; performing  
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the manœuvres and evolutions with them; observing, that when the close column is formed, they must always proceed to the flank of the column opposed to that side their corps is to display to; and on the columns displaying, they follow the first division; and when that halts and forms, they take post on its right.

*Of the Firings.*

The firings may be performed by platoons, subdivisions, grand divisions or wings; the division or platoon firing, may be from the wings to the centre, or from the centre to the wings, and must be so often varied according to circumstances, that the direction of it must be left to the commanding officer.

I shall therefore only observe, that in platoon firing, it is common, after the first fire, for the odd platoons or divisions to fire, as soon as the respective platoons or divisions on their left begin to shoulder; and the even platoons or divisions, when those on their right hand begin to shoulder; on beating the first part of the General, the firing must cease, the troops load and shoulder; and the signal must continue till all are shouldered.

*Of the different Beats of the Drum necessary to be known.*

The assembly, is the signal to repair to the colours.

The march, for the whole to move.

To arms, is the signal for getting under arms.

Adjutant's call, first part of the troop.

Non-commissioned officers call, two rolls, five flams.

Front to halt, two flams from right to left, and

and left hand flam, and a right hand full drag.

For the front to advance quicker, the long march.

To march slower, the taps.

*Of Reviews of Parade.*

When a battalion is to be reviewed, it must be drawn up in the following manner : The ranks at four paces distance from each other ; the colours advanced four paces from the centre ; the Colonel twelve paces before the colours ; the Lieut. Colonel four paces behind the Colonel ; the Majors on the right of the battalion in the line of officers ; the Adjutant behind the centre ; the officer commanding platoons, eight paces before their intervals ; and the other officers on the same line equally divided in front of their respective platoons ; the serjeants who covered officers take their places in the front rank of their platoons ; the other non commissioned officers who were in the rear, remain there, falling back four paces behind the rear rank ; and the drummers and fifers are equally divided on the wings of the battalion, dressing with the front rank. The General Officer who is to review them, being within thirty paces of the battalion, the Colonel orders,

*Battalion present Arms !*

on which the men present their arms, and the drums of the right wing salute him according to his rank ; the officers and colours salute him as he passes in front of the battalion ; and on his arrival at the left, the drums beat the same as on the right ; the Colonel then commands,

*Shoulder Firelock !*

and when the General has advanced to the front,

*Rear*



*Rear Rank ! Close to the Front !*  
 on which the officers face to their platoons.

*March !*

The rear rank closes to the front, and the officers stepping off at the same time ; those commanding platoons take their posts in the front rank, and the others go through the intervals to the rear ; then the Colonel commands,

*Battalion by Platoons ! to the Right, Wheel ! March !*

The whole wheel by platoons to the right, and march by the General ; the Colonel at the head of the battalion, with the Majors behind him, followed by the drums of the right wing ; the Adjutant on the left of the centre ; and the Lieutenant Colonel in the rear, preceded by the drums of the left wing.

The officers and colours salute, when within eight paces of the General ; and the Colonel having saluted, advances to him.

The battalion having marched to its ground, and formed, the General orders such exercise and manœuvres as he thinks proper.

